

APPROVED

Commission on Aging

Minutes of May13, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sam Gordon (2014), April Holinko (2014), Bettejane Karnes (2015), Steve Kegler (2015), Bev Korba (2014), Laurie McMorro (2014), Don Nolan (2014), Joan Terry, (2013)

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES: Estelle Elliot (Wright's Way), Marilyn Gerling (Glen Ridge), Emile Poirier (Jensen's), Martina Warton (Juniper Hill)

STAFF: Kevin Grunwald, Dir. of Human Services

ABSENT: Will Bigl (2015)

GUESTS: Matt Hart, Town Manager; Toni Moran, Town Council Personnel Committee; Maria Capriola, Asst. Town Manager

Minutes - The minutes of the April 8 meeting were approved as written.

Correspondence – April distributed copies of a publicity release from the Town Manager's office about a prescription drug discount program that is available to all residents through the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities. She also handed out copies of the letter that was sent from our Commission to the Town Manager and Council Personnel Committee that explained our position on the vacant human services positions.

Old Business – Matt Hart told us that the Council had removed the proposals to increase the hours of the volunteer driver coordinator as well as the youth challenge program from the proposed town budget. He said that these changes could be adjusted if the state aid is more than currently expected. Matt explained the interim staffing plan and said Cindy Dainton will be the staff liaison with our Commission.

Senior Center – Kevin distributed copies of the Senior Center report. He said the questionnaire regarding services at the senior center was filled out by about half of the Center's participants. Both the program series on

audiology and the police academy have received high praise. The first Thursday evening program was well attended.

Wellness Center – Beth Hankins is facilitating several support groups, holding noontime seminars and seeing increasingly more clients.

Senior Housing News – Martina said that the wellness program with the VNA continues at Juniper Hill and many residents take advantage of FoodShare. Emile reported that Jensen's had a blood pressure clinic/spa and a number of social events. Marilyn mentioned that Glen Ridge will have an open house on June 9. Estelle asked for advice on how to meet some of the needs at Wright's Way.

New/Old Business – April suggested that we nominate officers at our next meeting in June. We reviewed our current goals and suggested several changes and/or modifications. Members were asked to think about these goals and to be ready to discuss them at our June meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Terry, secretary

Next Meeting: June 10th

Goals for the Commission on Aging 2012-2013

1. Monitor Mansfield's Long-Range Plan for seniors with a continued focus on priority issues of senior safety, information dissemination, senior center space needs and health care needs including changing federal benefit programs.
2. Continue to advocate for the installation of a bus shelter at the Route 275/Community Center bus stop.
3. Advocate for increased hours for the volunteer driver coordinator. Will Bigl (2015),
4. Encourage the Downtown Partnership to make the new Storrs downtown senior friendly.
5. Monitor the development of an independent living/assisted living facility in Mansfield.
6. Support the hiring of a Senior Services Social Worker.